

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for entering the Amendment filed September 14, 2007.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR§1.83(a) because they did not show the thickened circular rim. Since the term "thickened" in connection with the circular rim has been cancelled, it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to as not providing a proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The specification has been objected to insert the words "circular slot" at page 4, line 13. Thus, the specification, as amended, recites a proper antecedent basis for the term "Circular slot" and it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Kosar and Nikolaus.

Reconsideration is requested.

New claim 10 points out a container having an inner central recessed portion providing an auxiliary container, where the recessed portion has a longitudinal extension so that it does not project from the opened bottom of the closure body. In addition, claim 10 points out the recessed portion is delimited, at the top thereof, by a circular rim which can be engaged in the circular slot formed in the inner surface of the closure cover.

With respect to the longitudinal extension of the recessed portion, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is not made obvious by Dixon. In fact, Dixon only mentions an auxiliary container, shown in figures 5a to 5c in which the recess defining the auxiliary container has a closed bottom which projects from the bottom of the vessel 5 and to contact, for example, a liquid product contained therein.

New claim 10, points out that the recessed portion is delimited, at a top thereof, by a circular rim, which can be engaged in a circular slot formed in said inner surface of said closure cover. Dixon teaches that the projecting rim is formed on the bottom surface of the cover and not on the top surfaces of the auxiliary container body, which latter arrangement is not taught or suggested by Dixon as a possible variation of his invention.

Kosar relates to necked containers made of either plastic, glass or sheet metal, wherein the circular wall ends defining the neck opening are sealed directly by a cover or a closure cap without the use of a sealing disc or liner.

However, in the device of the Kosar patent, in order to tightly couple the cap to the container, it is necessary to specifically design, for example, the plastic container neck, by providing in its top surface an annular V-groove with specifically designed flanks, to be connected by a substantially wedging contact with an annular convex bead of a closure cap or cover. In order to connect the container and the cap it is necessary, for example, to choose different materials for the closure cap and the container neck or to provide threads on the plastic closure cap. On the

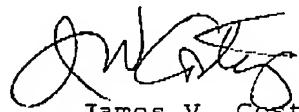
contrary, the very simple coupling arrangement pointed out by the present Applicant in new claim 10, utilizes a conventionally molded simple circular slot or groove to be coupled with a projecting rim of the container body, without requiring, for example, the rim or cover to be made of different materials, or with a very complex construction.

Nikolaus points out a snap engagement coupling arrangement, in which the projecting rim is formed on a top of a container part, whereas the "slot" is formed in the cover material as pointed out in new claim 10. However, the groove of the cover in the Nikolaus patent is a very complex groove that is defined circumferentially between a peripheral edge 33 of a cavity of the cover and a short peripheral wall 44 of the cover. In other words, this snap engagement type of coupling can be made only by providing a closure cover having a complex circular cavity therein.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted, that the teachings of the Kosar and Nikolaus patents are not properly combined with the teachings of the Dixon patent, based on the diverse teachings of these references. For these reason, it is requested that this ground of rejection not be applied against new claim 10.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James V. Costigan
Registration No. 25,669

Hedman & Costigan, P.,C.
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10035
(212) 302-8989